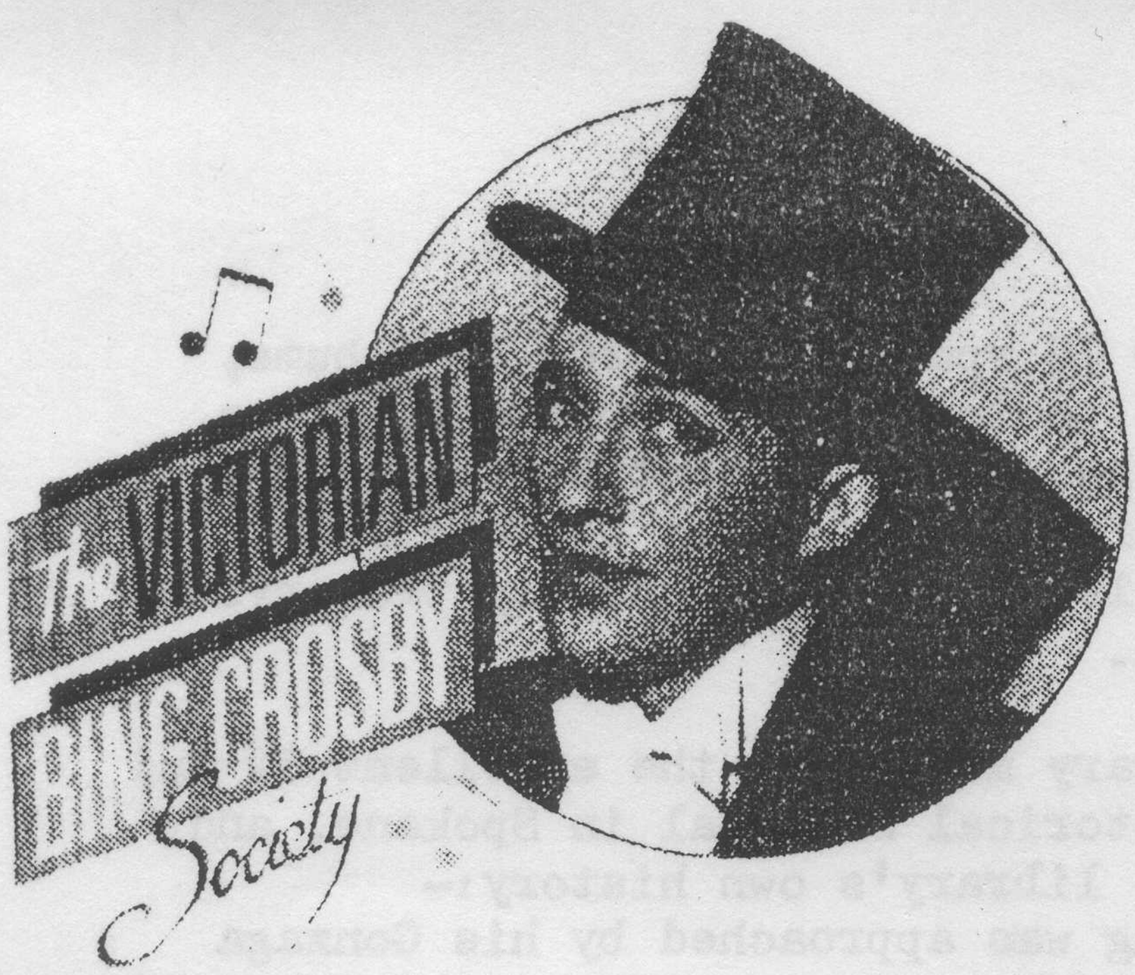

AUGUST 1993

Make a note of our next Film Night - Tuesday August 24th.at the usual time and place - 7.30 p.m., A.M.P.Theatrette, cnr.Bourke & William Sts., City - and be there to enjoy a fine Bing Crosby/Dick Powell double bill from the late thirties - "DOUBLE OR NOTHING" (1937) and "HOLLYWOOD HOTEL" (1938)

DOUBLE OR NOTHING stars Bing with Mary Carlisle, William Frawley, Martha Raye, Andy Devine and Fay Holden (and in a small, unpublicised role that marked her film debut, Frances Faye). With its story of four "down-and-outers" each given the chance by an eccentric millionaire to make a million dollars, it was one of 1937's most successful releases, following as it did the Paramount/Crosby hit-recipe of light comedy/romance/and a batch of top new songs - in this case including "All You Want to Do is Dance," "Smarty," "It's the Natural Thing to Do," and "The Moon Got in my Eyes."

HOLLYWOOD HOTEL starred Dick Powell as a young talent quest winner whose introduction to Hollywood wasn't quite what he expected. The last of the spectacular Busby Berkeley musicals, "Hollywood Hotel" also featured Lola Lane, Rosemary Lane, Benny Goodman and his Orchestra, Frances Langford, Hugh Herbert, and,playing herself, Louella Parsons. Johnny Mercer and Richard Whiting collaborated on the new songs which included "Hooray for Hollywood," which became the film capital's theme song.

FOR YOUR DIARY: 1993's remaining VBCS Film Nights are October 12 - Tuesday
December 6 - Monday

Condolences, and tributes to Bob Machliss have come in to Mrs.Janet Machliss and the Society from around the world. Typical of the sentiments expressed were those in a letter from the International Crosby Circle in the U.K., via Secretary/Treasurer Michael Crampton,who said - "Bob's untiring efforts on behalf of Crosby enthusiasts were greatly respected, and all of us, throughout Australia, the U.K., and America, owe him much."

THE BING CROSBY HISTORICAL SOCIETY. Founded in 1977 on Bing's death, in his birthplace, Tacoma, Washington, for the purpose of collecting Crosby memorabilia. The Society had an enthusiastic membership, including Queen Elizabeth 11, Ronald Reagan, and Phil Harris, who all donated items to the collection.
Unfortunately however, the Board this year moved to dissolve the society - a decision forced upon it by the continued failure of the Tacoma city authorities to honour a long-standing promise to assist in the establishment of a suitable home for the Society and its extensive collection.
On June 2nd., the officers of the BCHS gave to the Cowles Rare Book Library of Gonzaga University, Spokane (Bing's alma mater) its entire historic "treasury," comprising 180 videotapes, including many Crosby movies - 700 audio

Cassette tapes, 100 miscellaneous books, 800 78 rpm records, 200 LP Albums, 30 photograph albums, hundreds of individual photographs, 2 bronze replicas of the statue of Bing which stands outside the Crosby Student Center on the Gonzaga Campus, and many other assorted artifacts. The Society felt that this was the best way to ensure that the collection is permanently preserved, and available to researchers, and the public.

In its letter of thanks, the University Library mentioned the excellent TV and newspaper coverage of the arrival of the historical material in Spokane, and went on to give the following details of the library's own history:-

"When the need arose for a new library, Bing was approached by his Gonzaga friends. Through his efforts, a new library was constructed and dedicated in 1957 as a memorial to his family. After 35 years, the library could not keep up with the growing demands of a flourishing university; consequently it moved to the Foley Center last fall. The building is now the Crosby Student Center, which houses the Crosbyana Room, where the original collection included 22 gold and platinum records, his Oscar, photographs, trophies, and special awards. This room receives visitors from throughout the world. The research material is kept in the Special Collections Department in the Foley Center.
Gonzaga is committed to displaying Crosby memorabilia, and the BCHS material will be exhibited for future generations to enjoy."

Finally, <u>finance</u> - an unpopular subject but one which, unfortunately, won't go away!
The Committee will continue to access club funds to subsidise Film Nights, and to keep membership subscriptions as low as possible in these difficult times. However with current expenditure, especially theatrette hire, and printing and postage costs for the newsletter, continually escalating, we do need to ask members for a fee of $5.00 for 1993/94 - due August 31.

Would you please complete the following form, then detach and forward to Treasurer Keith Dorman, 32 Raleigh St., Blackburn 3130. (Or present it in person on August 24)

*Cheques should be made payable to "The Victorian Bing Crosby Society."

<u>NAME:</u> .....

<u>ADDRESS:</u> .....

.....

<u>CHEQUE ENCLOSED:</u> $